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PRESS RELEASE

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Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Numbers Jump to Over 130 Governor Napolitano Allocates More than \$500,000 to Address Problem External Quarantine Order Goes Into Effect Today

(Phoenix) – The number of Glassy Winged Sharpshooters detections has risen over the last week to 132 and now Governor Janet Napolitano has allocated an additional \$528,000 today, which will allow this program to run through June of 2007. These additional monies will be used to pay for personnel, transportation, treatments and trapping.

The Glassy Winged Sharpshooter is the **primary carrier** of Pierce's Disease, an infection of the plant that has no viable remedy and has the potential to wipe-out one of Arizona's key landscaping ornamentals – the oleander – as well as citrus crops and the wine industry.

How many Glassy Winged Sharpshooters have been found?

- A male and female were first detected in Sierra Vista, Arizona in August of 2005 in a trap that was set out as part of more than 800 traps throughout the state to monitor this pest.
- Now, the problem is back as the Arizona Department of Agriculture has found over 132 additional adults in a three mile square region in Sierra Vista.

What is the Department of Agriculture doing to combat this problem?

- Treatment has begun within the three mile radius of the problem. Commercial applicators have been brought in to reach into the tops of the trees and thoroughly address the issue.
- Additional employees have begun hanging more than 6,000 traps around the state to create an accurate picture of where the state stands in combating this pest. To date, all evidence shows this is within the three mile radius in Sierra Vista.

- The external quarantine order will go into effect today. This order, as signed by Donald Butler, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, prohibits host material from entering Arizona, unless it has been treated or comes from a nursery that has been certified as Glassy Winged Sharpshooter free.

What is the history and biology of this pest?

The Glassy Winged Sharpshooter is native to the southeastern United States. It was first found in California in 1990 and has threatened many of the vineyards in that region. This leafhopper is a large insect, almost a half-inch in length. It is a dark brown to black. Its head is stippled with either ivory or yellowish spots. It receives its name from the transparent portions of the front wings. The glassy-winged sharpshooter can fly up to one-quarter of a mile, and it frequently appears in high numbers. The insect is able to survive winter temperatures dipping as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

The insect overwinters as an adult. It begins laying egg masses from late February through May. The year's first generation matures as adults from May through August. The year's second generation begins as egg masses laid from June through September. It is this generation that produces the next year's offspring.

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